

Wichita Daily Eagle

M. M. MURDOCK, Editor.
M. M. MURDOCK & CO., Publishers and Proprietors.

All letters pertaining to the business of the printing department or business, or for advertising should be addressed to the business manager, M. M. MURDOCK & CO., 123 to 127 N. Main Street, Wichita, Kan.

The only daily paper in Southwestern Kansas or the Arkansas Valley receiving both the day and night Associated Press reports in full.

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WICHITA HOSPITAL.

THOROUGHLY EQUIPPED—A CHARITABLE INSTITUTION OPEN TO ALL COMERS.

The First Hospital of the City—Room for Fifty Patients—School for Training Nurses—Library—Children's Ward—Elegant and Cosy Rooms for the Sick.

By those unfamiliar with such institutions a hospital is regarded with more or less dread, and the sick who are sheltered and cared for within its walls are considered unfortunate. Such feelings are doubtless quite justifiable in many instances, but a visitor to the Wichita hospital must necessarily get quite a different idea. In the first place the building was erected for a hospital and every device known to modern architecture was resorted to in order to make it suitable in all particulars for the care and convenience of the sick.

It is situated on a high, airy hill, and with a view of making it a first class hospital and its hygienic surroundings are all that could be desired. If there is a healthy spot in the Arkansas valley the Wichita hospital is located there. From the upper galleries a bird's-eye view may be had of



THE WICHITA HOSPITAL.

the entire city and the suburbs, while looking southward the eye rests upon a glorious stretch of country as can be seen from the city. It is just near enough to the city to be convenient and yet is removed from the noise, bustle and dust of the busy streets. The Santa Fe, Rock Island, and Missouri Pacific trains may be seen passing to and fro across the country but at such a distance that the slightest whistle is only faintly heard in the open air. A large well kept lawn surrounds the building on every side and the faint rustling of the foliage stirred by the warm southern winds is all that presumes to mar the absolute quiet of this spot. The Wichita Hospital was not always in its present flourishing condition. It began in a very modest way and the success of which it boasts today is the result of the untiring work and economic management of its directors supplemented by the zeal and skill of its medical staff. It was the first hospital established in the city in response to the first need and on that account has always enjoyed the sympathy and support of the public.

Five years ago a lady, a stranger and destitute, was taken sick and some of the ladies of this city took it upon themselves to care for her which suggested the idea of a hospital to their minds. They at once rented a small house and with borrowed furniture opened the Wichita Hospital then known as the Benevolent Home. With what they could contribute themselves and beg from friends this institution was founded, having one patient, that has since grown to be an ornament and a pride to the city.

Many of the original founders at present occupy seats in the directors. For two years and a half the institution grew slowly and surely in importance when it became necessary to have more room. It was then moved to a building which was built for a hotel, No. 723 South Market street. In one year this building was found to be too small and lacked several things necessary to a well equipped hospital. The present building was then taken, which was a little over a year ago, and the old Benevolent Home became one of the best equipped hospitals in the west and assumed the present name of the Wichita Hospital. The income is made up of the following regular donations: \$5 monthly from the city, \$50 from the county and the receipts from its patients. In addition to this its donations from individuals is a very important item, for no family in the city forgets this institution when the season for making presents comes around.

Space will not permit a recital of the many ingenious ways that the ladies have thought of to add to its revenue while its present prosperous condition is sufficient guarantee that every source of income has been turned to good account. It has been managed entirely by the ladies and all their energies are bent to its welfare with the prospect of future success in the world of it is the best assurance in the world of its success. Besides being out of debt it glories in a neat little reserve fund that may be counted in hundreds. The present officers and directors are as follows: Mrs. A. B. Bailey, president, Mrs. M. M. Woodcock, vice, Mrs. George W. Larimer, recorder, Mrs. H. Lytle, financial secretary, Mrs. Leopold Hayes, treasurer, Mrs. Frank Smith, Mrs. G. W. Buehler, Mrs. Z. M. Johnson, Mrs. Anna Harris, Mrs. L. R. Hight, Mrs. Dr. Durand, Mrs. Furman, Mrs. D. A. Mitchell, Mrs. Cohn, Mrs. Dr. Everett, Mrs. C. F. Hight, Mrs. C. B. Holden, Mrs. Dr. Russell.

The hospital accepts the patients of physicians of good standing of any school. The following are the members of the regular staff who arrange their visits in such a way that one is always present in the building: Consultation—Dr. E. B. Reitz, Dr. C. C. Furley, Specialists—Dr. E. E. Hamilton, Surgery—Dr. G. C. Purdie, Dr. W. D. McClure, Dr. Wm. E. Shindler, Obstetrics—Dr. P. D. St. John, Fevers—Dr. J. W. Kirkwood, Dr. A. W. McCoy, Dr. Nannie Stevens, Gynecology—Dr. E. S. Everett, Dr. J. E. Oldham, Dr. J. W. Kirkwood is president of the staff, Dr. E. S. Everett, secretary and Dr. W. D. McClure, treasurer.

The hospital is No. 1021 South Fourth avenue, convenient to several lines of street cars and is within ten minutes of the center of the city. It is heated by steam, has water, drainage and every modern convenience. The halls are wide and airy and the ventilation is made perfect by the scientific construction of the building. There is a bath on every floor, besides the conveniences that belong to the private suites.

The third floor is divided into rooms and wards for the charity patients. In the female ward there are several private rooms, while the male wards are simply arranged. Each ward has a separate balcony on every floor and the arrangement of these galleries is one of the most attractive features of the building. The rooms are all neatly furnished with special attention to the light. The windows are so arranged

that the light is admitted just as may be necessary in treating the patient, or as may best suit his or her comfort. Every window is tastefully curtained, thus softening the bright sun light and making it agreeable to the weakest eye. A visitor is at once struck with the perfect cleanliness of every nook and corner, and the watchful eye of the matron fails to overlook this matter in any particular.

The second floor is divided into several departments. There are several large, elegantly furnished rooms for the pay patients in the front while the rear contains several smaller rooms, the children's ward, pharmacy, operating room and store room for small stores and hospital supplies. Each department is entirely separate from another, having its own gallery also separate and distinct. In the rear of the pharmacy, which is nothing more or less than a miniature drug store, is the operating room, furnished with all necessary articles such as tables, sprays, and the heavier paraphernalia used by physicians on such occasions. The walls are handsomely tiled and the floor cemented. In fact, nothing is neglected to make the department what it should be and is the pride of the staff.

Attaching to this room has been the scene of many difficult operations it has yet to witness the first failure.

On the opposite side of the hall is the children's ward, which presents the appearance of a large nursery, and here the little tiny specks of humanity are given every chance for their lives and they readily take advantage of their opportunities. As yet the death of no child has cast a gloom over this cheery apartment.

On this floor the attention of the visitor is attracted to a little room that is furnished entirely different from any of the others and shows signs of careful arrangement. The curtains are draped in an artistic manner, the light creeps in through a delicately tinted shade and everything betokens special care and taste. It was furnished by the Francis Willard Y's, and is set aside for their proteges.

In the north hall are the rooms furnished by the "Entre Nous" club, and the Maternity ward. These rooms are large and inviting, the furnishings are elaborate and nothing is lacking to make them attractive. Rich lace curtains adorn the windows and easy chairs and lounges are placed in every convenient nook and corner.

On the ground floor the K. of P., the I. O. O. F., and Mr. Cash Henderson have each furnished apartments and their luxurious appointments are the pride of the hospital.

Just to the right of the main entrance is the consultation room for the physicians. This room is also beautifully furnished and is decorated with flowers in bloom. A handsome stand contains twenty-five pairs of rare and beautiful plants that are carefully tended. Little bouquets containing a sprig of green may be found in every ward and afford great comfort to the tired and weary sufferer. A hundred little ways have been adopted by the matron to make it pleasant for the patients, and all of the inmates have a smile of greeting whenever she puts in an appearance. Mr. E. J. Zimmerman is the resident superintendent and his estimable wife acts as matron. They have both had many years of experience in hospital work and may realize at a glance that the hospital is under the direction of competent nurses. In the south hall on the lower floor are the private apartments of the superintendent and matron. At the end of this hall are the elevator shaft and the engine room. The extreme end opens into the dining room a large cheerful room while a glance into the kitchen beyond assures the visitor that the table is well furnished, the basement has a splendid furnace, store room for heavy stores and laundry. Every thing is in apple pie order and needs no description, there being no room for criticism.

After an hour's visit the stranger is impressed with the quiet and peaceful repose of the entire establishment. The foot falls are scarcely noticeable and the heavy carriages of the halls and stairways.

On Sundays, services are held in the large reception room and may be attended by those of the patients who desire. Ministers of all denominations officiate, being detailed each Sunday by the ministerial association.

The library is a cozy little room, comfortably furnished and the book shelves are stored with choice books and periodicals. Here all of the daily papers are kept on file, being donated by the publishers for the use of the inmates.

The most important feature of the hospital work is the training school for nurses.

That city building contract.

The people of this city are watching very closely what looks like queer manipulations and strange and unheard of propositions touching the contract for the city building. They expect the council to do its duty, its whole but its simple duty.

The taxpayers at present are in no humor to permit of any trifling. The contractor agreed to build the building of a certain kind of stone for a price stated in his contract. The sample of stone was agreed upon and the sum of the cost put in plain words and figures. All the contractor has to do is to fulfill his agreement or in failing to do so pay the damages nominated in his voluntary bond. The whole matter is a very simple one and is understood by everybody. If he can't get the stone which he contracted to construct, that is not the fault of anybody but himself. It is surely not the fault of the people whose servants agreed to pay, in all good faith, a stipulated amount for the building of a certain kind of stone. It is now done the people will want an explanation, and it will have to be a very clear explanation. Any talk of damages by the contractor is all pure monkey business, and is open to the grave suspicion of ulterior motives and side understandings with the officials. It was the business of the city authorities, in the first place, to determine the character of material and to see to it that it was good, and satisfactory in all particulars, and then to let the contractor under a good and sufficient bond, and then to stand from under until the time for acceptance came. It's too late now for either the city authorities or the contractor to plead ignorance. Rather than that the authorities might fear to resign, and the contractor make good the damage done to the interests of the city, as provided for in his bond. About all this matter the people will not stand any bad faith.

It is not going into the details of this matter now. It is unnecessary. It is common street talk. The people know that the contractor, in his original bid, only made \$4,000 difference between the Grouse creek and the Augusta stone, and \$1,000 between the Grouse creek stone and the Alma stone, and now he is proposing to ask, it is said, \$2,000 extra to change, or a sum more than sufficient to pay for the delivery of the entire amount of stone necessary to put up the building, and that, too, after \$2,700 has been in some way mysterious to the people, allowed extra on the foundation, which ought to cost little, if any, more than this extra amount allowed. These are the facts as shown by the EAGLE's files and doubtless are approximately correct. If they are correct the city council would do well to make an explanation at their next meeting, for that such are the facts, we are convinced, is the understanding of the whole matter by the people. To say less than this would not satisfy the honest people of the community, who look to this paper for a declaration of their convictions and conclusions, and to say more we hope will not be found necessary.

ANOTHER FISH STORY.

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Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Sauer wish to extend their most sincere thanks to the friends and neighbors who so kindly assisted during the late illness and death of their mother, Mrs. Louise Kruger.

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At the meeting of the Knights of Pythias 18th, last night, the first and second degrees were conferred on Charles Bullance, Rufus Cone and County Commissioner Duncan.

AMUSEMENTS.

CRAWFORD GRAND.

The "Silver King" was given last night at the Crawford Grand to a good house. The play is well known to the theater-going public and was presented last night to a strong company. Mr. Clarke as Wilfred Denver, was the ideal Silver King, while his support was quite satisfactory. Nellie Denver, Clary and the Spider were also very acceptably interpreted.

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COUNCIL'S SPECIAL SESSION.

A Long Discussion Over the City Building Stone Question—Decide to Advise for Stone Needed in City Building.

A special meeting was held last evening of the city council to consider the stone question for the city building. In the lobby at the time the meeting was called today by Contractor Rogers and Architect Proudfoot could be seen, which may explain that little was known of the meeting outside all members of the council, who were present. A few others arrived later. Mr. Rogers, in a communication stated he was unable to comply with the contract for erecting the city building with Alma stone, and this was followed by a long discussion about how to act on the situation. As will be shown from report some members took position that the city is at the mercy of the contractor and had better use the olive branch to excess and better solicitous about the welfare of the contractor. Others thought the city had some rights even the contractor should respect. The discussion came out over an effort to adopt a majority report of building committee, submitted by Carson and Martin. Finally a substitute to enable the city to secure information without the assistance of Mr. Rogers was introduced and passed by a roll call as will be seen.

THE PROCEEDINGS.

Members present: Carson, Caswell, Buckridge, Johnson, Glaze, McKee, Williams, Martin, Mosbacher, Brown, with Mayor Clement in the chair. Before business commenced Schmitzler and Coffin arrived.

The call was read, showing the object of the meeting, to consider the city building stone question.

A communication was read from Rogers, city building contractor, stating he had entered into a contract first to use Augusta stone; that it was afterwards changed to Alma. The Alma stone had been promised to go good, and he was willing to go on with the contract and substitute stone equally as good.

When Rogers said he could furnish Butler county stone at \$300 less than the present contract, but which is \$2,400 more than the original bid for the same stone.

Buckridge called for the reading of a resolution which he thought placed a limit on the amount to be expended on city building construction.

Johnson asked that the contract with Rogers be read also.

The resolution was read being a resolution by Mr. Glaze placing a construction cost not to be more than \$700,000. It was passed on December 9th and intended for explanation to architects to draw plans.

Coffin said that the council could change the resolution if it so desired. The city attorney said the position was correct. Coffin continuing said the Alma stone not to be found and now a question whether to take contractor's figures or proceed by some other means.

The city attorney said the council and contractor would be compelled to agree to a change in contract before they could re-advise.

Coffin thought it best at least to let different stone men submit bids. The mayor stated that now the city in same position as when the stone was changed from Augusta stone to Alma.

Buckridge said if stone higher now than formerly, city would be compelled to stand it, and if cheaper let the city benefit by it.

Carson thought Rogers could get as cheap bids from stone men as the city could and also seemed to think the contractor would not take any trouble to make an extra sale.

Buckridge said Rogers wants \$4,000 more for Towanda stone than last formerly and formerly the entire cost of Towanda stone little over \$6,000.